

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, April 4, 1996

Published Since 1877

MC associate prof invited to Romania for lecture series

When Steve Cook stepped off the train in Cluj, Romania, he was in for a shock of contrasts.

All around him, modern-looking homes and apartment buildings were connected by an assortment of paved and unpaved streets.

Satellite dishes sprouted like giant mushrooms in the yards of homes that appeared to have been built in the 19th century.

Cook, a Mississippi College (MC) associate professor of art,

traveled to the eastern European country to deliver a series of lectures on graphic design at the Ioan Andreescu Visual Arts Academy in Cluj.

Cook was invited to lecture by Rodica Moran, who holds a master's degree in graphic design from MC and is now an instructor at the Cluj academy.

Her husband, Romanian sculptor Livan Moran, served as MC's artist in residence in 1994.

A grant offered by the MC faculty development committee made the trip possible.

"(The Romanians) have a long history of graphic arts dating back to the 16th century, and they are producing beautiful work," Cook said.

He noted, however, that many graphic designers in Romania have only obsolete equipment and manual typewriters as the tools of their trade; the computer revolution has been slow in coming because of a lack of available capital.

In addition, the formerly communist government strictly regulated all forms of expression, and necessary graphic arts resources were hard to obtain.

"During the communist rule,

people even had to register their typewriters and give a sample of the type to the government so it could be traced," he said.

When the communists fell in 1990-91, Cook noted, Romanians began to build a market economy — which is highly dependent on advertising and associated graphic arts.

"People are willing to work very hard. I was impressed by their creativity. It's a very literate and educated country," he said.

Cook attended a local Baptist church while in Cluj.

"The church was packed; it was a spiritual, warm service. I greeted them from Mississippi College and from my church, and read from Ephesians 1:13-17.

"I felt honored that these people would invite me to say something to them. They had worked and sacrificed a great deal under much opposition to build a handsome structure, and this added to the overwhelming sense I had of how important worship and fellowship were to them.

"All walks of life were there, and the church has programs which reach out to the needs of the people," he said.

Cook observed that Romanians are hungry for spiritual fulfillment, and that local evangelism efforts need to be encouraged.

"There's a great deal of interest in religion now. They need help, but it needs to be a native effort," he said.

FMB in urgent need of Europe campaign vols

Have you ever served as a volunteer overseas? The Foreign Mission Board's (FMB) partnership office now has some of the most urgent requests and opportunities for Western Europe ever directed to Southern Baptists!

The FMB is desperately in need of concerned and loving Southern Baptist men and women to serve in partnership campaigns in Norway Oct. 9-22; in Sweden, where nationals are asking for 30 U.S. churches and 300 team members Oct. 15-29; and Italy, needing 50 team members Oct. 30-Nov. 12.

"If you can sing, play a musical instrument, teach a Sunday School class, preach, share your Christian testimony, pass out tracts, or just go pray and share the burden with our overseas friends, you are needed!" said Dub Jackson, campaign coordinator.

"In other words, if you're an active, concerned Southern Baptist — we need you now! We are earnestly praying that we may be able to respond and provide every

team and team member now being invited to join with our brothers in Western Europe.

"These nations are determined to make a major effort to reach the millions of lost people who need to hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ today," Jackson continued. "They have invited us to come and join them in reaching out with the good news that we know to be the only solution for national and world-wide revival! We go as partners in Christ, working with them shoulder to shoulder."

Pray and ask God if he wants you to take part in this tremendous task. Trust him to work out the details, and contact the partnership effort immediately. Time is short and these urgent requests have just come in!

For more information on how you can serve the Lord in these campaigns, call the FMB partnership office, (800) 888-8657; or Dub or Doris Jackson, partnership coordinators for Western Europe, in Abilene, Texas, at (915) 677-2500.



A pair of youngsters peers over the balcony as the choir performs in a Cluj, Romania, church.

Current best sellers at Baptist Book Store

Hardback

1. **The Purpose Driven Church**, by Rick Warren (Zondervan)
2. **Experiencing God**, by Henry Blackaby/Claude King (Broadman & Holman)
3. **Seven Promises of a Promise Keeper**, by James Dobson (Focus on the Family)
4. **A Gentle Thunder**, by Max Lucado (Word)
5. **The Mind of Christ**, by T.W. Hunt (Broadman & Holman)
6. **Rebel With a Cause**, by Franklin Graham (Nelson)
7. **Moments Together for Couples**, by Dennis & Barbara Rainey (Regal)
8. **Life on the Edge**, by James Dobson (Word)
9. **His Needs, Her Needs**, by Willard Harley (Baker)
10. **The Finishing Touch**, by Charles Swindoll (Word)

Paperback

1. **Right From Wrong**, by Josh McDowell (Word)
2. **Woman, Thou Art Loosed**, by T.D. Jakes (Destiny Image)
3. **The Five Love Languages**, by Gary Chapman (Moody)
4. **15 Minutes Alone With God**, by Emily Barnes (Harvest House)
5. **What Happens When Women Pray**, by Evelyn Christenson (Scripture Press)
6. **My Utmost for His Highest — Music Edition**, by Oswald Chambers (Nelson)
7. **Final Battle**, by Hal Lindsey (Western Front)
8. **No Wonder They Call Him the Savior**, by Max Lucado (Multnomah)
9. **God Came Near**, by Max Lucado (Multnomah)
10. **Stick a Geranium in Your Hat**, by Barbara Johnson (Word)

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Meadow Grove Church, Brandon, exceeds its Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal by more than 30% in one call to the altar by pastor Rick Kennedy. A luncheon was held after the service, with dishes native to all 50 states served to churchgoers.

20 years ago

Amy Bishop, member of Northcrest Church, Meridian, receives her Sunday School one-year perfect attendance pin — one week after celebrating her first birthday. The only Sunday she missed in her young life was the one immediately after she was born.

50 years ago

Baptist-affiliated Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain announces that both men and women will be accepted for summer school classes, but "women only are admitted to the dormitories on the college campus."

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

More than a village

A most-quoted line relating to children is an old African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child." Even First Lady Hillary Clinton uses the phrase in the title of her recently released book. The message in the phrase is that we are all in this together, and if things don't work out, "don't blame me; blame the village."

Kay C. James, former Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Resources, addressed this issue in the February 1996 issue of *Imprimis*, the monthly newsletter of Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan.

James pointed out some fundamental problems with the "village" concept of childrearing: children do not belong to the village, or to the community, or to the government. Children belong to parents, and the village exists as a resource for the families. She observes that the village does not

really exist any longer and there are those trying to substitute "big government" for the village.

There are social science engineers who seek to paint a picture of society gathering around the children, protecting them, teaching and loving them. The village will guide them along the way and lift up the child when he falls. James feels that the more our families disintegrate, the more violence in homes and schools, the more we fall back on this fallacious proverb.

It is the family unit where the attitudes and hopes of a child are shaped. The village cannot raise a child. Children do not belong to the community. Children belong to parents who tuck them in at night, wipe away their tears, feed them, and guide them through life. Parents are to love and discipline their children and be involved in their education process.

In his book *The Wounded Parent*, (Baker) author Guy Greenfield offers hope to discouraged parents. He writes of the pain of rejection, building new relationships, and how wounded parents can support one another. There is help for Christians whose teen or adult children have rejected spiritual and moral values. It is "comfortable reading in a painful situation."

Also, in *Parenting a Child with Special Needs* (Zondervan), author Rosemarie S. Cook shows parents how to balance their own needs with the needs of the child. These books may be in your church library.

The truth is we must take personal responsibility rather than assigning the blame to the village — or anyone else. A transformed relationship with Jesus Christ will transform families and communities. This is the point of beginning.

"NO, WE'RE NOT ACTUALLY ON THE INTERNET — BUT WE WANT THE COMPUTER ILLITERATES TO THINK WE ARE SO THEY'LL THINK WE'RE IMPRESSIVE."



Guest Opinion...

When we reach to Jesus, he changes us

By Jerry Mixon

She was hard pressed. The crowd was huge. Other attempts had ended in frustration. Failure. Really. She was no better. Worse. Sicker. Still she hoped.

She had heard many things about this man. He made the blind to see, the deaf to hear. Someone reported he raised the dead. Nothing like that would ever happen to her. Still she hoped. She came. Expecting. Doubting. *I've been this way for years. Twelve years I have suffered.*

"Excuse me," she moaned. Her body pressed through the crowd.

Maybe, if I could just get close enough to touch him. Not to be seen, mind you. This is embarrassing. What if he asks what is wrong? How will I tell him? There are so many people. What will they think? I should go home. No way. I've come too far to turn back.

"Please! Could you just let me through?" She was almost in reach. There was a shift in the crowd. She was pushed backward.

"Wait! I only want to touch him."

Suddenly, the crowd moved again. She was trapped, penned in.

Carried by the crowd now, she was hidden behind him.

Yes, this is better. He will not see me. Not know. All I have to do is reach out and touch. What if nothing happens? Do it now. Quickly, before the crowd moves again.

With trembling hand, reaching over, she briefly touched the hem of his clothing. She felt something. What? She was not sure, but something. She felt different, strange. Good. Better. Different.

The man turned. He surveyed the crowd. "Who touched me?" he asked. The woman shook her head as others did.

Simon Peter and others rushed in for crowd control. "Master, there are so many. Why do you ask who touched you?"

The Man replied, "I perceive virtue is gone out of me."

The woman knew she had been discovered. Her secret was out. Many had touched him. Some accidentally. Some curiously. Others for fame.

She had really touched him. Her touch was different. She knew it. He knew it. She was well.

She fell to her knees. This had been her greatest fear. Then it happened. She was babbling like a schoolgirl. She told him all. The whole truth and nothing but the truth. She had dreaded this but now it was done, over, finished.

Jesus looked into her eyes. "Daughter," he said, "be happy, your faith has made you whole. Go in peace."

I have stood where she stood. Kneled where she knelt — afraid like her, wanting to tell it all to Jesus, fearful of his response, doubtful of my faith, ashamed of

my actions. Repenting. I have reached out to touch. A touch of hope and doubt.

Still I reached, dared to touch him. Then before I knew what was happening, I told the whole story. Laid it all at the feet of Jesus. Leaving nothing out. Like a child I went on and on. He got the scoop. I spilled the beans. To my amazement, there was no condemnation. No harsh words. I was different, changed. I could feel it. He knew it, too.

Then he moved on so others could touch and be touched. I was left in the warmth of faith and confession.

I closed my Bible and stood. I had been praying and Jesus had been in my office. He had been present, unseen but real. Invisible but present. I had reached out to touch him and he had touched me. Regaining my composure, I closed the door behind me. I wanted to look back but I didn't.

Mixon is pastor of Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale.

THE FRAGMENTS

All kinds of notes

Palm Sunday was a good day. My wife and I visited the Country Woods church near Terry. Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, helped in beginning this mission point. The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board furnished the church a mobile chapel in which to meet. With the help of the Hinds-Madison (now Metro) Association, a church was started. Ed Mahaffey is pastor.

The Country Woods sanctuary was overflowing on Palm Sunday as Bill Causey preached. There were 193 in Sunday School. The new building is a utility building which can be used for class rooms and a fellowship hall. The church had more members in its choir than we had anywhere in those early years when my wife served as pianist.

Sunday evening we attended a lovely worship experience at First Church, Jackson. Larry Black,

minister of music, led "Celebrate! An Evening of Praise."

Now, we've had "fifth-Sunday sings" for years, but this service ratcheted the whole concept up several notches. There were 250 choir members; the orchestra and the main floor of the sanctuary were packed with people.

Guy Hovis (another great Guy) was the special guest singer. Remember, he is the man who made Lawrence Welk famous. His renditions of "I Bowed on my Knees" and "The Robe of Calvary" were excellent and set the stage for the choir to sing "The Midnight Cry." First Church's choir and orchestra left us breathless when they performed Handel's "Hallelujah" chorus.

Once in my life, I thought you had to use shaped notes to sing well. They could use any kind of notes and celebrate. Indeed, it was an evening of praise. — GH

I BELIEVE IN MISSIONS, BUT HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

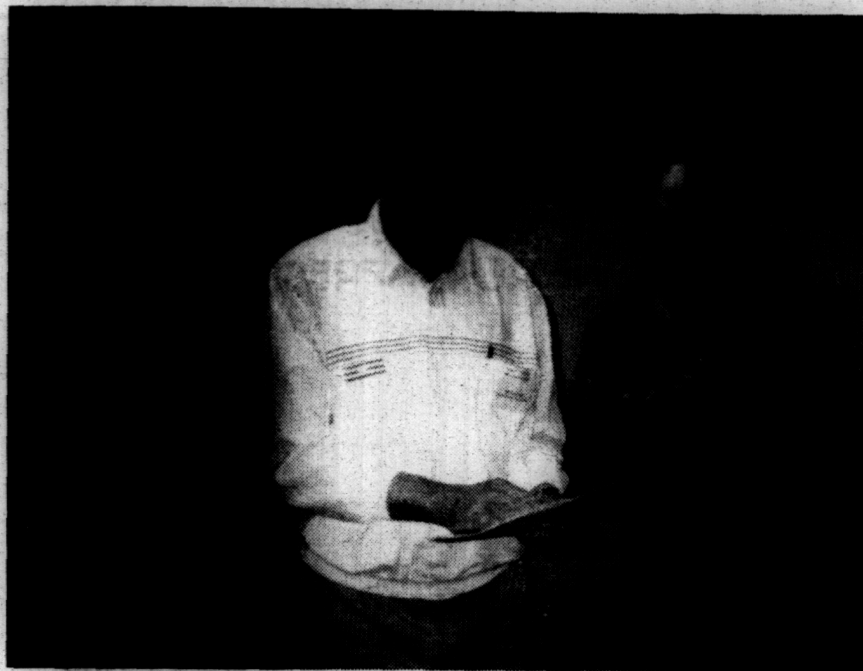
Step 1. By giving to a church that gives through the Cooperative Program

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Bill Wakefield (center), vice-president for international outreach at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (FMB), discusses ministry ideas at FMB's Missionary Learning Center in Richmond, Va., with Indy (left) and Charles Whitten of Clinton. The Whittens are state coordinators for FMB's International Friendship Family Program, which is designed to reach internationals residing in the U.S. (BR special photo).

Locals help start effort aimed at internationals

By Indy Whitten

My husband Charles and I spent 40 years overseas as Southern Baptist missionaries to South America, Europe, and Africa. We retired in 1987.

From 1987-94, we were far from inactive, but in 1994 we became part of the exciting possibilities and urgent needs of internationals in our country.

The International Outreach Office of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (FMB) was established in January 1994 as part of the FMB strategy to reach all people, in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and other Southern Baptist agencies, organizations, churches, and members.

In December 1994, we became International Outreach Representatives (IOR), and attended an IOR conference in November 1995 at the FMB Missionary Learning Center in Richmond, Va.

Most of the IORs, now in 22 states, are retired foreign missionaries. The suggested strategy is that retired missionaries, former missionaries, International Service Corps (ISC) personnel, and volunteers join together in this important ministry.

Don Wilson, director of the Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), and Jerry Merriman, director of the MBCB Student Work Department, are supportive of this project.

We have contacted associational directors of missions and Baptist Student Union (BSU) directors, and we spent a few days on the Mississippi Gulf Coast ministering to international seamen.

Worship services are being started in different parts of Mississippi with internationals who speak languages other than English — Spanish, Chinese, Korean, etc. Some of these internationals will remain in the U.S., but many will return to their home country.

The International Friendship Family Program will be carried out with the cooperation of BSUs, local churches, and the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU).

Christian families will "adopt" internationals, opening their homes and hearts to people far from home. Families will come together in meaningful cross-cultural relationships.

The program's motto is, "A friend for every international." With friendliness and hospitality, the message that America is a nation of loving people who open their homes to the world will return with the internationals to their homelands.

This will serve the purposes of world peace and understanding among nations — and lead them to want to know Jesus.

We will always remember our experience of going into a foreign country speaking "baby Spanish" and seeking to adapt to the culture.

Matthew 25:35 (TLB) expresses how we felt to be invited to share family life with nationals of Argentina, Spain, and Equatorial New Guinea (West Africa): "... I was a stranger and you invited me into your homes."

It was Noche Buena (Christmas Eve) in the Canary Islands, an intimate family time in a place where we had no family to help us celebrate.

A family in our church invited us to their special family celebration. They said, "We can't bear to think of your being alone on Christmas Eve. Let us share our family with you!"

For more information on the program, contact the Whittens at 108 West Lakeview Drive, Clinton, MS 39056. Telephone (601) 924-1340; or the FMB International Outreach Office at P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230-0767.

Whitten and her husband Charles are serving as Mississippi coordinators for the international program.

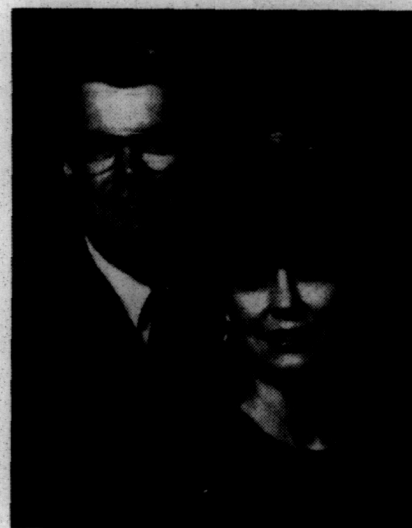
HMB taps Mississippi couples for missionary service in Tenn., Okla.

Mississippi natives Ray and Diane Gilder were appointed recently by the Home Mission Board to be missionary associates to Tennessee.

Also, Philadelphia native Sheila Mitchell and her husband Todd were appointed to be missionaries to Oklahoma.

Gilder, 52, of Vardaman, will be director of bivocational ministries in McMinnville, Tenn. A graduate of Memphis Bible College, he has served as pastor of churches in Water Valley, Greenville, and Maben. Since 1992, he has served as director of church and community ministries for the Tennessee Convention. She will serve in family and church ministries.

Sheila Mitchell will serve as director of Dayspring Villa Women's Shelter in Sand Springs,



Ray and Diane Gilder

Okla. A graduate of William Carey College and the University of Oklahoma, she previously served as mental health coordina-



Todd and Sheila Mitchell

tor for St. John Medical Center in Tulsa. Todd Mitchell, a computer technician, will serve in church and family ministries.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, April 4, 1996

Published Since 1877

MBMC executive director Kent Strum resigns post

By Tim Nicholas and William H. Perkins Jr.

M. Kent Strum resigned March 29 as executive director and chief executive officer of the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (MBMC) in Jackson, according to a news release from the medical center's board of trustees.

"My goal has always been to position the hospital for future growth and success. In this time of enormous change in the health care industry, the board of trustees and I agreed upon the goals and vision, but differed on the methods and timing to reach those goals," Strum, 53, said in his resignation statement.

"I have the greatest respect and belief in the strength and capabilities of MBMC, its staff and physicians," he added.

Strum reported that his resignation took effect April 2, and that he has moved into a transition office while seeking "other areas of service."

Trustee chairman Howard McMillan of Jackson on March 29 named C. Gerald Cotton, MBMC associate executive director and chief operating officer, to assume the chief executive officer role

during the transition.

"Our institution is indebted to Mr. Strum for his dedication to MBMC and the significant growth and contributions made during his tenure. He is a fine man, of the highest integrity and commitment, and the news of his resignation is received with regret and loss."

"All I can say is that Kent offered his resignation and we plan to accept it. I want to make sure it is known that there have been absolutely no improprieties, nothing at all to reflect adversely on his integrity," McMillan said.

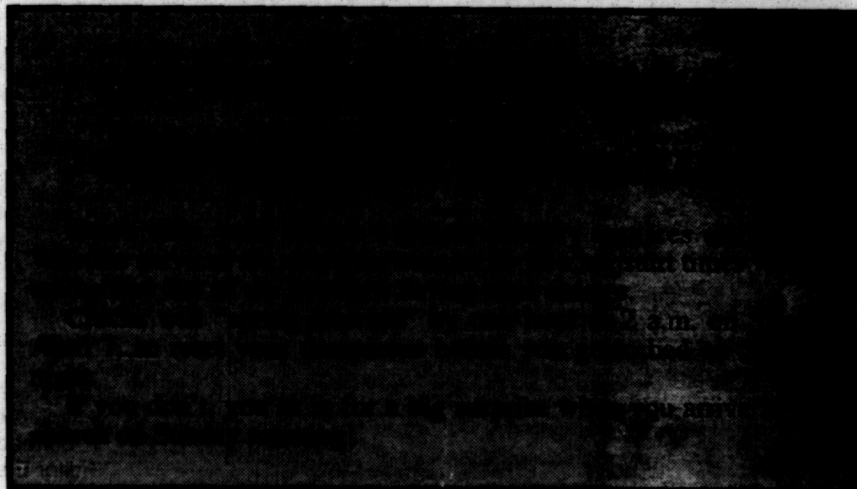
In an interview with **The Baptist Record** after his resignation was announced, Strum described his years at the medical center as productive and Christ-centered.

"I have always viewed my work here as a ministry, taking

seriously the thought that this is indeed an extension of Mississippi Baptist work. Although we had to do the business pieces right, there still had to be the underlying sense that we were making the gospel available to people in a very real and tangible way."

"I think we demonstrated that, with the strengthening of the chaplaincy program, the opening of the Samaritan Counseling Center, clinical pastoral education — our strong commitment to the spiritual and the gospel. I'm as true-blue a Southern Baptist as you're going to find," Strum said.

Strum, a Neshoba County native, began work at the medical center in 1977. After being named assistant administrator and chief operating officer in 1987, he was elevated to the top spot in 1988.





Pointing out gambling ills

John M. Eades (right), director of chemical dependency services at Singing River Hospital in Pascagoula, discusses addictive gambling problems with Gordon Sansing (center), pastor of First Church, Vicksburg, and Fred Messina, a reporter for the **Vicksburg Evening Post** newspaper, during the "Gambling: The Christian's Response" conference March 20 at First Church, Vicksburg. Eades offered professional observations and spoke on his experiences as a recovering addicted gambler. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Foundation assoc. reviews restructuring, annuities

JACKSON (BP) — The Association of Baptist Foundations received updates on the restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention and on a lawsuit that had threatened the nation's charities during its annual meeting, March 24-26 in Jackson.

Hollis E. Johnson III, president of the Foundation, was asked for an update on the status of the agency, which will be merged with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee under the SBC "Covenant for a New Century" restructuring.

According to association President George R. Borders, no action was taken by the association regarding the SBC restructuring. Borders is president of Florida Baptist Financial Services.

The Southern Baptist Foundation is one of seven agencies scheduled to be dissolved or merged with another SBC entity under the restructuring, approved by messengers to the SBC sesquicentennial in Atlanta last June. Under the merger with the Executive Committee, the foundation will become a subsidiary corporation with a seven-member board. The merger will take place in June 1997, assuming a favorable vote by messengers at this year's annual meeting in New Orleans on SBC Bylaw 15's listing of SBC entities and on a proposed charter amendment for the foundation. Morris H. Chapman, Executive Committee president, has said he will recommend Johnson continue to lead the foundation.

The 95 participants in the association's meeting, representing 20 of the nation's 32 Baptist foundations, also received an update on a lawsuit against the Lutheran Foundation of Texas involving

charitable gift annuities it issued to a 96-year-old Texas woman. The lawsuit later was expanded to a class action that included the Baptist Foundation of Texas, the Southern Baptist Convention, the Salvation Army, and about 1,900 other charities.

Subsequent to the filing of the case in 1992, two Texas laws and two federal laws were passed in 1995, all aimed at guaranteeing charities the right to issue gift annuities. In a summary judgment hearing March 1 in a Denton County, Texas, probate court, the judge ruled the 1995 Texas laws could be applied retroactively.

Reviewing the case during the association's meeting were Lynn Craft, president of the Texas Baptist Foundation; Tal Roberts, national chairman of the Committee on Gift Annuities; and attorney Terry Simmons of Charitable Accord.

Bo Childs, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, was elected president of the association; Stephen Mathis, executive vice president of the Missouri Baptist Foundation, was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

Featured speakers included John L. Manley, senior financial manager, Smith-Barney, New York; Peter Brinkerhoff, management consultant from Springfield, Ill.; Bruce Heilman, chancellor of the University of Richmond (Va.); Al Shackleford, editor of **Mature Living**, a Baptist Sunday School Board periodical for seniors; and Jackson pastors Frank Pollard of First Church and Jim Futral of Broadmoor Church.

Next year's annual meeting, to be held in Boston, will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the association's founding.

Gaming industry organizes to fight Christian influence

By Jon Walker

NASHVILLE (BP) — It's a sure sign of success for Christian groups trying to stop the spread of gambling: Gaming advocates are organizing for a counterattack.

In an article called, "The Moral Politics of Gaming," published in the trade magazine **International Gaming and Wagering Business**, industry experts outline steps for "turning the tables" on anti-gaming groups. The steps include attacking arguments that gambling hurts the economy and causes increased crime, pushing for limited-stakes riverboat and casino gambling (presumably easier to pass among voters), and uniting the industry for additional political clout.

The article, written by Paul Doocey in December, also suggests the economy could "push gaming back into the forefront," particularly if a recession "creates a sudden need for taxes and economic renewal..." that government decentralization could help the gambling interests if states are forced to find other methods for funding programs abandoned by Washington; and that some gaming victories could be helped by dissension among Republicans caused by the tension between belief in a free market and the government controls typically imposed on gambling.

Although the article acknowledges the moral arguments made by many opponents to gambling, it suggests even those opponents are beginning to de-emphasize the morality aspects of gaming, focusing instead on the economy and crime. This, according to the article, is exactly the "window of opportunity" needed by gaming interests "to score some much

needed public relations points."

Arguing that gambling improves the economy of an area is just not factual, said Lamar Cooper, a Southern Baptist expert on gambling.

"It's really a question of whose economy you're improving, perhaps the gamblers?" Cooper said. "Atlantic City is not a model for a rebuilt, restructured community, based on the influence of gambling. Before gaming came to Atlantic City, there were over 2,000 businesses. At one point, they were down to around 300."

The pro-gambling article also claims law enforcement studies "show few incidents of organized crime infiltration or rises in other social crimes associated with casinos." Evidently, these statistics do not include Gulfport, where crime increased 300% in some categories after gambling was introduced to the area, said Cooper, currently faculty dean at Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

"Crimes have gone up in many states where gambling has been introduced," Cooper said. "Because gambling is an addiction, people will steal to satisfy that addiction."

The addictive argument is the one gambling interests should be most concerned about, cautions the pro-gambling article. "The compulsive gambling argument is the one opponents of gambling are beginning to latch on to, and to be

quite honest, it is a legitimate concern," said Randolph Baker, a professor of gaming studies at the University of Nevada Reno's Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming, who was quoted in the article.

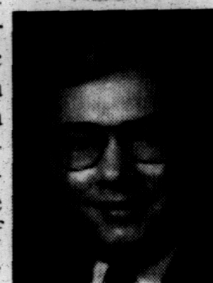
"Due to the addictive element, we have not yet seen, and we cannot document the social cost of gambling on our society," said Paul Jones, executive director of Mississippi Baptists' Christian Action Commission. "Gambling has been seen as a moral and social problem for 200 years, one that creates problems for individuals and institutions. Suddenly, we're trying to ignore all that!"

Speaking of government-operated lotteries, Jones asked, "Is it ever a legitimate function of government to promote that which is known and demonstrated to be addictive, destructive, and harmful to individuals, families, and society?"

Cooper said this "facelift" of gambling is simply a reaction to the success anti-gambling groups have had in stopping its spread. "It's going to be incredibly difficult for gambling elements to sell their claims to state and local governments because the facts are just not there to support them. The longer the track record, the easier it will be to demonstrate gambling's destructiveness."

That destructiveness, the moral element, is at the core of any Christian argument against gambling, said Cooper. "Gambling is not a harmless form of family entertainment; it's a moral blight."

Walker is associate editor of **SBC LIFE**, published by the SBC Executive Committee.



Jones

Jones: key questions in gambling debate

NASHVILLE (BP) — "The gambling cartel cannot be allowed to frame the questions of the gambling debate," said Paul Jones, executive director of the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

He offered four questions that should be answered before government-operated gambling — such as lotteries — is allowed into the community.

1) Is it a function of government to make losers out of its citizens? State-operated lotteries guarantee that most citizens will become losers, and seemingly, has one government agency working to hurt citizens when other agencies are working to help them.

2) Is it a function of government to compete with legitimate businesses? State-operated lotteries place the state in competition for the same dollars being spent for goods and services elsewhere.

3) Is it a function of government to advertise that which is known and demonstrated to be addictive? The American Psychiatric Association lists gambling as a compulsive disorder, Jones noted.

4) Is it a function of government to conflict with its own consumer protection laws? Truth in advertising laws would not allow a grocery store to make outrageous claims, such as, "Buy our food and live to be 100!" Yet, lotteries promote false hope, advertising that a few dollars can lead to millions, Jones said.

TEACHERS TO CHINA

The Teachers to China '96 project is an intensive language immersion program with a primary focus in conversational English. Be a part of this exciting missions opportunity to share Christ with the students of China.

Call (901) 272-2461
or 1-800-280-1891 for more
information today!

Teachers to China is a project of the Foreign Mission Board, The Brotherhood Commission, SBC, is recruiting volunteers.

Attendees take meeting title to heart at Start Something New conference

Thursday, April 4, 1996

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By Tim Nicholas

During testimony time at a Start Something New conference March 25 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, participants showed they already had started something new.

Programs and projects mentioned by the more than 100 participants include:

- English classes and drug and alcohol counseling on the Mississippi Gulf Coast within two blocks of five casinos.

- a congregation of public housing residents.

- a small church delivering the gospel along with 30 hot meals.

- the first African-American

ASSISTeam, a ministry to the homebound.

- an open air chapel service in a water park pavilion.

- five Big A Clubs, including one that meets in the back of a van.

- two Bible studies for children who attend after-school programs.

- a new prison ministry.

- an Alcoholics Victorious program where people acknowledge the power of Jesus Christ.

- a Wednesday morning breakfast for businessmen.

- a plan for new work among residents of 31 mobile home parks.

"Through Start Something New we have the opportunity to reach people we are not reaching now through traditional methods. It is a grass roots effort at reaching people in the community where they are," said Don Wilson, conference organizer and director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Missions Extension and Associational Administration (MEAA) Department.

Charles Chaney, vice president for the extension section of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, told the participants that churches will only grow by adding new units — "new growth structures that assimilate new people."

"Starting Something New is the answer to the question, 'What could every church do that would help it to grow?'" said Chaney.

Growth structures could include new Sunday School classes or departments, a second worship service or even a new congregation — in addition to projects mentioned by the Garaywa conference participants, Chaney pointed out.

Churches "do not grow primarily by adding individuals," he said.

The conference included sessions on learning to use demographics; how to get support from the church or association; how to develop Bible studies outside church walls; men's and women's ministries; language and cultural new starts; church-type missions and ministries in multi-family housing or mobile home ministries; and prayer ministry.

Start Something New is a Southern Baptist Convention-wide emphasis theme for 1996-98. The emphasis in 1997 will be missions. In 1998 the emphasis will be ministry.

For more information, contact MEAA at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Nicholas is director, MBCB Office of Communication.

Start Something New conference is slated for African-American missions

A special Start Something New conference for ministries and missions in the African-American communities of Mississippi will be held on Monday, April 15, in the Baptist Building at 515 Mississippi Street in Jackson.

Michael Thurman, an associate in the Black Church Extension

Department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, and Ken Weathersby, director of African-American Church Extension for the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Nashville, will be the featured speakers.

"Brother(s) Thurman and Weathersby are experienced church planters who will begin with the biblical basis for starting something new, and then lead us

in 'how-to' and 'what do I do in my community,'" said Richard Brogan, program coordinator and consultant in the Missions Extension and Associational Administration (MEAA) Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The conference will begin at 10 a.m. in the Baptist Building Sky Room (fourth floor) and conclude at 4 p.m.

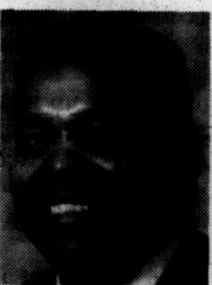
There is no cost, and lunch will be provided. Child care will not be provided.

Reservations are required by the deadline of April 5.

For more information and to make reservations, contact Elaine Smith or Dot Herring in the MEAA Department at (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



Thurman



Weathersby

Politicking complaint leveled against Houston's Second Baptist Church

WASHINGTON (ABP) — A Washington-based religious liberty group has made a large Southern Baptist congregation in Texas the first target of a new campaign to force churches to comply with Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rules that limit political activity by non-profit organizations.

In a March 19 letter, Americans United for Separation of Church and State (AU) Executive Director Barry Lynn urged the IRS to investigate activities of the "Nehemiah Project," a ministry of Second Church in Houston that encourages political involvement by church members. Lynn's letter said printed materials distributed at the church encouraged individuals to vote for particular candidates at Republican Party precinct conventions, a violation of federal law.

Federal law enforced by IRS permits churches and other non-profit organizations to seek to influence legislation as long as their lobbying efforts represent less than a "substantial" allocation of their resources. The law contains a flat ban against engaging in election activities.

AU also announced the formation of Project Fair Play, an election-year effort to bring churches into compliance with the IRS prohibition on campaigning.

"Most American churches responsibly comply with IRS rules barring partisan politicking," Lynn said at a March 19 news conference in Washington. "But those who don't should give up their tax-exempt status."

Ed Young, pastor of Houston's Second Church and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said the church has done nothing wrong and that Americans United singled out the 22,000-member megachurch noted for its pro-family stance in an effort to gain publicity.

"This is an attempt by the left wing of our society to attack those of us who are trying simply — certainly to stay inside the laws of this land — but also to make a difference," Young told the **Houston Chronicle**.

"It's about headlines," Young continued. "I guess they pick a church that they think they can come after, but we have our attorneys dealing with the IRS."



MBREA welcomes Sullivan

James Sullivan (left), former president of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville and a Tylertown native, talks with Joe Armour (center), minister of education at First Church, Clinton, and Keith Wilkinson, director of the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, during a break at the Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association (MBREA) annual meeting in early March at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Jackson. Armour served as MBREA president during the 50th anniversary observance of the organization's birth. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Annuity Board teams up with consultant to help participants choose plans

DALLAS — The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has teamed with Frank Russell Company as consultant to assist participants in its retirement plans to make savings and investment decisions.

A proprietary educational program called LifePoints has been customized for the Annuity Board and licensed for use only by the Annuity Board and its plan participants.

A new 13-fund investment structure will soon replace the Annuity Board's four current retirement investment funds. To help each participant select an investment strategy that's appropriate for him or her, every participant will receive the LifePoints investment education program.

A free investment education seminar, which will include a walk-through of the LifePoints program, is scheduled in every geographic area of the country and at institutional and agency places of employment. Participants who cannot attend a seminar will receive a LifePoints kit by mail in late summer.

Curtis D. Sharp, vice president of Fiduciary Services at the Annuity Board, is spearheading the communications effort. Officers and staffs in the Member Services and Fiduciary Services Divisions, state annuity representatives, and others trained by the Annuity Board will conduct dozens of seminars.

Sharp said, "The educational seminars will help participants select an investment strategy that they feel is right for them. The program's ultimate objective is to help each one act on what he or

she learns. The exercises will lead our people through a process to reallocate their retirement account accumulations from current plan investments into one or more of the 13 new Annuity Board fund choices. The new funds will be available in 1997."

The LifePoints investment education program was developed by Frank Russell Company, headquartered in Tacoma, Wash. Russell has been helping people and companies with investment needs since 1936. The firm is a pension consultant and full service provider of retirement savings plans. The LifePoints program is based on three profiles — Beginnings, the Midway, and Transitions. These "life points" represent stages of retirement planning.

"The program presents four general investment strategies, ranging from conservative to aggressive, using four of the 13 new Annuity Board fund choices. These four investments are 'pre-mixed,' well-diversified, blended funds," said Sharp.

A series of exercises will help each person determine where he is in the retirement planning process and which LifePoints profile best represents him or her. A short quiz will help a participant determine a personal investment risk tolerance.

Once one determines a risk tolerance and a "life point" profile, he or she will have the opportunity to select an investment strategy using the new fund choices. A written election will authorize the Annuity Board to reallocate account accumulations and contributions to new fund choices on Jan. 1, 1997.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I find myself creating the same distance between my children and me that I felt from my own mother when I was growing up. How can I avoid repeating my mother's mistakes?

The first step is to recognize this behavior in yourself. Next, work to create the closeness with your children that you wanted as a child. Take a few minutes to remember what you dreamed about in terms of your relationship with your mother. You will repeat her undesirable behavior as long as you focus more on it than on what you really want. Give yourself credit for the areas in which you do well. Do you laugh with your children? Walk together? Read together? Eat together? Take pride in what you are doing right. Observe other people in close relationships with their families and discover new possibilities for your family. Read books and attend seminars on relationship topics, and think positive rather than harboring past hurts. The King James Version of Prov. 23:7 states, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is

he." Work on the thoughts in your heart.

I am so tired of caring for my elderly mother that I often wish she would die. I feel guilty, but it's true.

Your attitude is normal; you are overwhelmed with the demands of your situation. Talk with others in the same situation and you will find the same frustrations. Just when you finish raising your own family, you find that you must assume responsibility for your aging mother. There is a great sense of obligation, but also guilt because of the resentment you feel. You want to help your mother, but you would also like a little time for yourself. Search for appropriate outlets for both your mother and yourself. Get her involved in senior adult activities. Check out adult day care programs. The key is to balance your time and efforts so that you are most effective in all you do. Don't forget to take time for yourself, your marriage, your family, and your relationship with God.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

First person...

If churches were Wal-Mart

By Ken Marler

NASHVILLE (BP) — My grandfather is 94 years old, and acts 60. He has unbelievably good health and an active lifestyle. My grandmother is almost as active at 88.

They live in It, Miss. Yes, It.

That's the name of the community just off Interstate 55 South between Gallman and Wesson. There is a sign proclaiming, "This is It." I have always wanted a second sign not far down the road reading "That was It."

Every Thursday, my grandfather drives about 20 miles to Wal-Mart in Hazlehurst. That is senior adult day, and he can get free coffee. He doesn't miss that day at Wal-Mart. When I envision my grandfather at Wal-Mart, I see him making sure everyone knows he's in the building. After all, when you're 94, you want everyone to know you're still alive.

When I asked my grandfather why he drives the 40-mile round trip for a free cup of coffee, he says, "Well, I like the free coffee, and I also like the way the clerks hug on me."

Once when my grandfather went to Wal-Mart, it just happened to be his birthday. When he entered the door, he found the

clerks had thrown him a birthday party — cake, candles, balloons, ice cream, and a newspaper photographer were all there. (Of course, there was free coffee, also.)

Wal-Mart knows my grandfather, and they know his name and when his birthday is.

Now it is very interesting that my grandfather does not go to church. He is a Christian, and my grandmother faithfully attends church. My grandfather just doesn't go.

I think I know why.

At Wal-Mart he gets what he doesn't get at church. The ingredients he misses at church? Hugs, people knowing his name, birthday parties, a sense of belonging, and being appreciated.

You see, it doesn't matter if you are 4 or 94, you like this type of attention. Age is not the issue. The issue is feeling like you belong and that you are a part of what's going on.

If my grandfather were in your church, would he get the Wal-Mart reception?

Marler is field services planning and projects coordinator for the Baptist Sunday School Board's Ministry and Leadership Development Department.

Agricultural Missions Foundation approves new expansion program

A bold new expansion program for Agricultural Missions Foundation (AMF), Ltd., was unanimously adopted at its recent annual meeting at First Church, Arcadia, La.

President Jim Watson of Jackson said, "Ag Missions has been an effective way to reach lost people for over 25 years."

The plan approved responded in a positive way to the question: "Should more people be involved in Ag Missions?"

Before "The Plan" was presented, Watson said there are three reasons Agri-Missions should expand: 1) to win more people to Christ; 2) to help needy people live better and; 3) to enrich

the lives of participants (members) through direct and personal involvement.

If successful, Agri-Missions' membership will increase substantially in the next few years. State chapters will be formed in at least five states. Two additional mission trips will be sponsored to see first hand and work on AMF supported projects. Also, new projects will be started.

Reaching these goals would provide more financial and personal support for the agricultural missionaries on the field. They are responsible for leading, planning, teaching, and reaching people. They are the number one reason for Agri-Missions to do more.

Harold Watson, long-time agricultural missionary to the Philippines, recently talked about the challenges the 21st century will bring. He said, "Farmers will have to produce more food on less land for more people."

He went on to explain that farmers in the tropical world must do it on very fragile tropical lands that are subject to both water and wind erosion. Agri-Missions hopes to play an important role in helping to meet these needs.

Churches, men's organizations, and individuals are encouraged to become actively involved. Specific projects can be adopted by groups, enabling them to work directly with a missionary. For more information, call (601) 355-2825 or write Agricultural Missions Foundation, Ltd., 120 N. Congress Street, Suite 815, Jackson, MS 39201.

New Zion, Ackerman, burns; church to rebuild

New Zion Church, Choctaw Association, suffered a near-total fire loss in the early morning hours of March 28, according to pastor Bob Mamrak.

Mamrak said the church structure sustained major damage from the 1 a.m. blaze, but local fire departments were able to save the vacant church parsonage located alongside the church.

Officials are investigating, but Mamrak said the fire likely originated in the kitchen from an electrical source.

The 154-year-old church is located at the intersection of South Union and Weir-Salem Roads, near Ackerman in Choctaw County. Mamrak estimated the building gutted by the fire was constructed in the early 1960s.

The congregation held open-air Sunday morning church services on March 31 on the front lawn of the church and enjoyed "the best attendance we've had in a long time," the bivocational pastor said.

Church leaders are eyeing the parsonage as a temporary facility until rebuilding can get underway, Mamrak reported.

A building fund had been established, he said, and a fundraiser will be held April 13 at the Chester Community Center in nearby Chester.

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Letters to the editor

Tribute to a friend

Editor:

Through the years I observed in Bryant Cummings the splendid qualities of Christian commitment, spirit, and faith that caused me to value our friendship, and today commend his role model.

Bryant Cummings... was committed to following the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Long ago Bryant interpreted God's will for his life as being to help churches reach, teach, win, and develop people for Christ and membership in Southern Baptist churches. With a strong sense of mission, Bryant served growing churches in Texas, Oklahoma, Georgia, and Mississippi as minister of education for 16 years and for more than 25 years was the greatly respected director of the Sunday School Department for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

In retirement, as in all his ministry, he continued to assist churches. The scripture "Whatever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31) aptly described his faithful commitment and effective ministry.

He provided leadership in an exemplary spirit of humility.

It was my privilege to work closely with Bryant during the years I served at the Sunday School Board. He was gracious in every planning/working relation-

ship and it was a genuine pleasure to be associated with him in leadership meetings. He had the unusual leadership quality of making program guests feel relaxed, comfortable, and important. He modeled the very difficult "servant" role in doing his work!

He lived out his life in a spirit of "relaxed" faith.

The quality of relaxed faith that characterized Bryant's life results from the scripture John 14:3: "Do not let your heart be troubled. Believe in God and believe in me also."

That quality of faith prepares faithful Christians for the inevitable realization that "night is drawing nigh" and helps us claim the blessed promise in John 14:3: "I am coming again to welcome you into my own home, so that you may be where I am!"

It is the hopeful expectation of every Christian worker, that like Bryant Cummings, we might so live out the qualities of Christian commitment, humility, and a "relaxed" faith that we shall also hear those coveted words: "well done thou good and faithful servant!"

Keener Pharr
Signal Mountain, Tenn.

Editor's Note: Mrs. Bryant Cummings' address is Box 6272, Chesapeake, VA 23323.

Remembers Kennedy

Editor:

It delighted me to see the article about J. Hardee Kennedy.

In 1939 when he went to Pleasant Grove in Clarke County, Pachuta Church called him as pastor. Pachuta was a half-time church and I was fortunate enough to be a 12-year-old member. Bro. Kennedy taught all of us youngsters the Bible, verse by

verse. He lived the teachings of Jesus as well as preaching them. When he and Virginia married, their wedding reception was in our home, and I have loved them through these years for their integrity, their faithfulness, and loyalty to the Lord.

There are other Mississippians who share these feelings. Those who were in Pachuta school with him, at Clarke College, Mississippi College, and former church members. A fitting way to honor him on his birthday, June 12, would be to send a donation to the J. Hardee Kennedy Student Scholarship Fund at New Orleans Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Boulevard, New Orleans, LA, 70126. The scholarships are for Mississippians.

Ann McCormack O'Hare
Cleveland

George urges test of ecstatic experience

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Christians should "test the spirits" to determine the authenticity of ecstatic religious experiences, a church historian told a Southern Seminary chapel audience.

"May we never be guilty of making light of anything that is genuinely of God," said Timothy George, dean of Samford University's Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala. However, in his March 12 address at the Louisville, Ky., seminary, George indicated some popular expressions of religious euphoria are not readily found in the Bible.

"In the Scriptures, the evidence of the glory of God is not giggling," George said. "It is weeping. It is not falling backwards in ecstasy so much as it is falling forward prostrate in repentance."

"Holy laughter" and "falling down" are religious expressions

Church starting over

Editor:

Bill Duncan, then pastor of First Church, Booneville, had been involved in helping Trinity Church get organized and find a pastor.

We first met in a store building for two years and our congregation grew. We faced trials and tribulations, but we kept going. Four years ago the Mississippi Baptist Convention approved us for a mobile chapel. We praised God for it, partly because someone else believed in us when, at times, we didn't believe in ourselves. We struggled and fought the devil in many ways.

We have seen many saved and many helped during the last six years. We welcome anyone to our church. We minister to the incarcerated, alcoholic, drug user, and

their families, black or white. We also have a ministry to a shelter in Lee County, through which we have seen God work and bless us in return. I do not say these things to brag, but to praise God and inform others about our ministry.

In the early hours of Feb. 1, our chapel burned to the ground. Not only did we lose all our furnishings, but also about \$2,000 worth of materials for our new church building, which is located on the same property.

Once again we are meeting in a store building. We are back to square one; or on the threshold of our vision. Our vision is a refuge for the hurting and helpless who can know that God loves them, too.

Sammy Coker, pastor
Trinity Church
Blue Springs

who had experienced God's majesty. Ezekiel saw a valley filled with dry bones and was asked by God if the bones could again live.

George said the issue of God's power has confronted people through the ages. Today some believe God cares about the world but lacks the power to intervene. *George said while others think God is all-powerful but unconcerned about the events on earth.*

Such Christians, he maintained, will say: "Yes, God used to be a God of power but that was a long time ago, at least 2,000 years ago. We haven't heard of him doing anything lately."

Mississippi CP gifts up 7% for first quarter '96

Gifts totaling \$1,850,270 from Mississippi Baptist churches were added to 1996 Cooperative Program receipts, making the three-month total \$6,245,370. The report comes from Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which disburses the funds. Receipts to date are \$178,522 more than those received in the same period of 1995.

A pro rata budget would

require receipts of \$5,820,246 through March. Income is actually \$425,124, or 7.30% more than that. The 1996 Cooperative Program budget is \$23,280,984.

Cooperative Program gifts are used to fund such projects as the recent Start Something New conference at Camp Garaywa and the upcoming Church Facilities workshop in Brandon, and the Mississippi Acteens Convention at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.

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Just for the Record



Nine members from Oral Church, Sumrall, departed on March 8 and returned March 15 for a mission trip to Mexico. While there, they repaired a roof, put up sheetrock, handed out Spanish-speaking Bibles, and conducted church services at Pappalodia and Sonoyta, Mexico. There were 29 professions of faith and 40 rededications during the trip.



Mississippi College recently held a workshop on anger management as part of its annual faculty/staff development emphasis. Leading the discussion was Dottie Hudson (standing), Counseling/Family Ministry Associate Minister for First Church, Jackson. Hudson's presentation centered on ways for Christians to deal with anger in today's hostile society. About 80 members of the MC faculty and staff attended the workshop, hosted by Howell Todd, president.

The Baptist Children's Village will hold its annual community Easter sunrise service on the India Nunnery Campus, April 7, at 7 a.m. John McCall, director of church relations and professor of Christian Studies at Mississippi College, will bring the message. Alisa Brashear, social worker for emergency care at the Children's Village, will bring the music. A continental breakfast will be

served following the service. For additional information call Chrysette Thames at (601) 922-2242.

The Woman's Missionary Union of Mt. Olive Church, Carroll County, set a goal of \$2,500 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. The final amount received was \$3,225. Richard Jenkins is pastor.

Staff Changes

Ebenezer Church, Senatobia, has called Michael Williams as pastor effective March 24. His previous place of service was Faith Church, Byhalia. Williams received his education at Blue Mountain College and Mid-America Seminary in Memphis.

Dennis Herrington, a member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, has answered the call to full-time evangelism. He formerly pastored churches in Louisiana and Mississippi, and conducted evangelism/missions in foreign countries and the U.S. He received his education at Northeast Louisiana University, Mississippi College (MC), and attended New Orleans Seminary. He can be



Herrington

contacted at 102 Tam-O-Shanter Cove, Clinton, MS 39056; telephone (601) 924-1766.

Wynndale Church, Jackson, has called Don Gann as pastor. He formerly served as BSU director at MC. He and his wife Melinda have two children.

John G. McCall, acting chairman of the Department of Christian Studies at MC, is serving as interim pastor at First Church, Clinton. While the pastor of First Church, Vicksburg, where he served 30 years, McCall served as a member of the board of trustees of MC.

Norman H. Gough recently joined the staff of First Church, Clinton, as business administrator. He previously served on the administrative staff at MC for 34 years prior to his retirement last July.

Kanto Plains Baptist Church (SBC), near Tokyo, Japan, seeks a pastor for its English-speaking congregation. The church ministers to American military personnel as well as Japanese nationals. For more information, contact the SBC Foreign Mission Board at (804) 353-0151; or Barry McKinney via the Internet: mckinneb@emh.yokota.af.mil or at PSC 78, Box 1651, APO AP 96326.

Mississippi College (MC) will host an exhibit by artist Albert Smathers April 14, 21, and 28. The exhibit will be held from 2-4 p.m. at the Latimer House on the MC campus. For more information call (601) 925-3231.

Leaf River Church (Smith Association) will hold a 6 a.m. sunrise service on Easter Sunday, April 7. A continental breakfast will follow the service. No evening services are scheduled.

Northwest Rankin Pastor's Association will hold an Easter sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. at Ross Barnett Reservoir in the parking lot across from the former Rapids on the Reservoir location. The speaker will be Larry S. McDonald, pastor of Castlewoods Church, Brandon. In case of rain the services will be held at Castlewoods Church. For additional information contact McDonald at (601) 992-9977.

Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth, will have a sunrise service on April 7 at 5 a.m. (daylight savings time). The service will be held in the cemetery. Every grave will be marked with a candle burning in a white bag. Breakfast will be served in the church cafeteria.

Revival Dates

Green's Creek, Petal: April 7-10; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bruce Gill, Hammond, La., evangelist; Rick Hamm, Green's Creek Church, music; Mike Routon, pastor.

Goss (Marion): April 7-12; Sunday, 7 a.m.; Sunrise Service, and 11 a.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; James Messer, evangelist; Doug Broom, music; Brian Stewart, interim pastor.

Cloverdale, Natchez: April 7-10; regular Sunday services; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Joe Aulds, Ruston, La., evangelist; Joe Aulds family, music; David McGuffee, pastor.

Antioch, Columbus: April 14-19; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Gary Jackson, evangelist; Barry Hathcock, West Point, music.

Friendship, Ellisville: April 14-17; 7 p.m.; Ralph Graves, Laurel, interim pastor and evangelist; Ken Culpepper, Laurel, music.

Parkhill, Jackson: April 14-17; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Garland McKee, Clinton, evangelist; Jim Chance, Jackson, music; Tim Roaten, pastor.

Mt. Vernon, West: April 26-28; 7 p.m.; Barry Corbitt, Kosciusko, evangelist; Tom

Thompson, Kosciusko, music.

Toomsba, Toomsba: marvelous Mondays in April; April 8, 7 p.m.; Roc Collins, Hattiesburg, evangelist, and Chris Marengo, Toomsba, music; April 15, Jim Futral, Jackson, evangelist, and Senita Webb, Meridian, music; Sunday, April 21, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Bill Baker, Clinton, evangelist and music; April 29, 7 p.m.; Rex Yancey, Pascagoula, evangelist, and Men's Quartet, Poplar Springs Church, Meridian, music; Ben James, pastor.

Harmony (Carroll): April 29-May 3; 7:30 p.m.; Richard Jenkins, Mount Olive, Carroll County, evangelist; Ann Palmertree, music; Ken Gower, pastor.

Doty Chapel, Shannon: April 14-17; Sunday, 11 a.m.; 7 nightly; Lee Gardner, Smithville, evangelist; Shawn Kinsey, pastor.

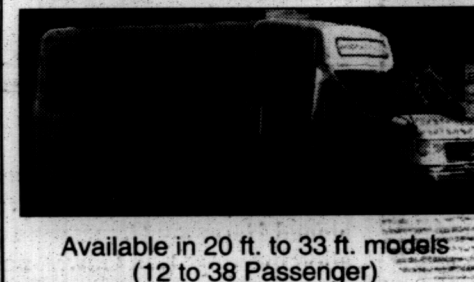


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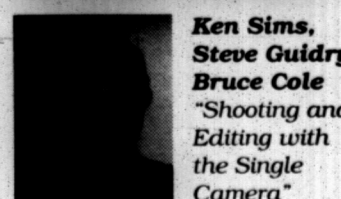
Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson

April 19-20, 1996

Awards Banquet — April 19, 7 p.m. — Chip Turner, speaker
Workshops — April 20, 9 a.m.-3:15 p.m.



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(For churches sending 4 or more for both days, cost is \$20 each.)

Send fees and information to Farrell Blankenship, MBIB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205; phone (800) 748-1651.

Names in the News



The William Carey College Speech and Debate Team (Forensics) competed in the 1996 Pi Kappa Delta Bi-Province Tournament in Covington, Ky. recently. Carey placed first overall in the Combined Sweepstakes in the tournament. The College of Charleston placed second and Tennessee Tech placed third. Members of the team receiving awards were Robin McGehee, Jackson; John Miller, Columbia; Roger Lott, Seminary; Shenel Crockett, Jackson; Shannon Clark, Tupelo; Candace Cochran, Petal; Suzanne Dubose, Mobile, Ala.; Brian Lucas, Petal; Mary Ann Cicala, Meridian; Justin Bunton, Hammond, La.; and Rebecca Dockens, Gulfport.

EAST SYRACUSE, N.Y. (BP) — **R. Quinn Pugh**, 66, executive director-treasurer of the Baptist Convention of New York the past 12 years, announced his retirement, effective July 31, in a letter to convention President Samuel Simpson and executive board chairman Terry Robertson.

Bennett Randman, principal Cellist of the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, will be the guest for a benefit recital scheduled at 8 p.m., April 12, in Provine Chapel, Missis-

siippi College. For more information call at (601) 925-3440.

Joy Vaughn Dufrene of Durant, **Beverly J. Crews** of Escatawpa, and **Mary Kraft Byrd** of Raleigh, are recipients of the 1996 Women's Auxiliary Scholarship Award of New Orleans Seminary.

Homecomings

Crosby, Crosby: April 7; covered dish luncheon will follow the 11 a.m. service; Howard Hamerick, former Crosby resident, guest speaker; Crosby Church, held its dedication service on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1956.

Damascus (Franklin): April 21; 10:30 a.m.; Talmadge Smith, director of missions, Copiah and Lincoln counties, guest speaker.

Harmony (Carroll): April 28; 10:30 a.m., dinner on the ground; annual Harmony Cemetery Association meeting; Ken Gower, pastor.



Fulgham

4. Higdon Herrington is pastor.

Richie Fulgham was recently ordained as a deacon by First Church, Itta Bena. Fulgham and his wife, Beth, are the parents of Brice, age 8, and Alex, age

Bettye Rogers Coward has been appointed vice president for academic affairs at Mississippi College (MC). She will begin her duties June 1, succeeding Charles Martin who is retiring. Howell Todd, MC president, said, "I am quite pleased that Dr. Coward has accepted this key position on our campus. She is a superb administrator, and she knows the heart and soul of this university and its mission. Mississippi College is recognized widely for its academic excellence and wholesome environment, and Dr. Coward is equal to the challenge of building on that reputation to make Mississippi College an even greater institution." She has been a member of the MC faculty for 25 years and is presently serving as a professor and chair of MC's Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and Health Education. Coward is a graduate of Mississippi University for Women and the University of Southern Mississippi where she received her doctorate in higher education administration.



Coward

Gary and Linda Lewis, music director and pianist at Mt. Olive Church, Carroll County, were



Thorn Hill Church, Pelahatchie, honored Euna Bowman on March 3 with a reception and plaque. She has served as church clerk since 1956. Pictured with Bowman are Johnie Conn Sr., deacon; John Bush, deacon; and Rudy James, pastor.

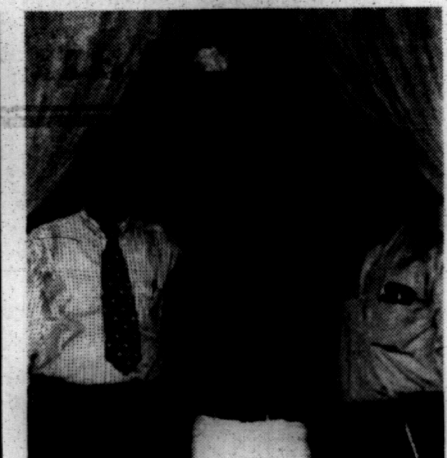
honored on their 10th anniversary with special recognition and a plaque presented by Richard Jenkins, pastor.

DORFWEIL, Germany (BP) — **James Heflin**, professor of preaching at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, has agreed to lead a growing convention of 62 English-speaking congregations in Europe. The European Baptist Convention (EBC) general council voted in February to ask Heflin to become its first non-missionary general secretary. The EBC has close ties to the Southern Baptist Convention. Heflin had asked for time to amicably end his relationship at Southwestern, where he has taught since 1985. He has been taking a one-year sabbatical, serving as pastor of Berlin's English-language International Baptist Church. In his new job, Heflin replaces **John Merritt**, a Foreign Mission Board missionary who served the convention 24 years. Merritt and his wife Elizabeth will leave in October to retire in the United States. A native of

Monticello, Ark., Heflin has served as pastor in Louisiana and Mississippi and taught at New Orleans Seminary before becoming a tenured professor at Southwestern.



Lowell Ingram, pastor of Strong Hope Church, Copiah County, recently traveled to the Holy Land and Egypt. Ingram reported the results of his trip to the congregation on Sunday night, March 17.



John Turner (right), pastor of **First Church, Lucedale**, was part of a University of Mobile (UM) mission team which organized a "Spiritual Emphasis Week" crusade March 3-6 in San Marcos, Nicaragua. **Julio Cuadra** (left) is pastor of First Church, San Marcos, Nicaragua; **Felix Maridiaga** (center) is UM Latin American Branch Campus student ambassador. Turner preached during the morning service at First Church, San Marcos, while Maridiaga interpreted the English sermon into Spanish.

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Uniform The living Lord



By David Mitchell
Luke 24

In the summer of 1974 the lights went out in Richard Nixon's political life when he was forced to resign as president of the United States. The day before leaving the White House, he spoke before a gathering of his cabinet and White House staff. He told them that such disappointments do not mean that life is over. The previous night he said he had been reading a book about Theodore Roosevelt. At one time in his life, Roosevelt's daughter had died, and he was despondent over her death, believing that the light in his world had gone out forever. But, said Nixon, Teddy Roosevelt went on living. Light began to shine again, and he went on to become the president of the United States.

The Scripture makes it obvious that the disciples on the Emmaus road felt like the light in their lives had gone out forever. Jesus, the One they had believed to be the Savior of Israel, was dead.

The disciples' conversation (vv. 13-14). The story of Jesus' appearance on the Emmaus road to two disciples is unique to the gospel of Luke. This passage of Scripture helps us better understand how Luke interpreted Jesus' death. Luke helps us see that Jesus' death was ordained by God because only through death could Jesus enter his glory (vv. 24-26). He helps us understand that Jesus' death was not a tragic accident but a divine necessity.

The disciples on the road to Emmaus on this particular day felt that the ministry of Jesus was over. They were possibly returning home after the Passover festivities. They had traveled approximately seven miles from Jerusalem. More than likely for the entire seven miles they had been rehearsing with each other all of the events surrounding the arrest, persecution, death, and disappearance of the body of Jesus.

Benign belief (vv. 15-24). The followers of Jesus did not recognize the risen Christ in verse 16. They were "kept from recognizing" his divine presence. Scripture helps us understand that God kept them from recognizing Jesus. Because they did not recognize him, this allowed Jesus the opportunity to teach them the necessity of his death and resurrection. It also allowed him opportunity to show how his death was the fulfillment of Scripture.

In verse 20, the responsibility for the death of Jesus is placed upon the Jewish leadership. The men on the Emmaus road described them as "our rulers" and they were the ones who, in the minds of these two men, delivered the sentence of death to Jesus and caused him to be crucified. In verse 21, we see that these two disciples possessed a more political view than religious view of understanding how Jesus would redeem Israel. In their minds, Jesus should have liberated Israel from its enemies. Luke carefully pointed out that Jesus did in fact redeem Israel by making salvation available to every man.

The Master's explanation (vv. 25-27). The disciples were described as "slow of heart." This idea reflects the Hebrew concept of the heart as being the seat of intelligence and speaks of their inability to comprehend what was taking place.

Luke presented not only the facts about Jesus, but also a brief interpretation of the facts. In these few verses, we understand that Jesus was intensely concerned about the sadness and the troubles of the disciples. Rather than condemning them for their lack of knowledge and belief, Jesus took time to explain "all the scriptures" that were necessary for these disciples to have their faith renewed. It is easy for us to gain an understanding of the tender compassion of Jesus by reading this passage of scripture. In the dark night of the soul when anguish and heart-searching take place, Jesus, the Light of the world, comes to our personal darkness, illuminates our world, and replaces our obstacles with stepping stones. In death and in resurrection, Jesus' greatest concern was for — and is for — those who are to become his disciples.

Mitchell is pastor of Van Winkle Church, Jackson.

Bible Book He lives!



By Clayton Littlejohn
Matthew 27, 28

I have a message that I preach entitled "The Greatest Sermon Ever Preached." I use that title to get people to reflect on the most memorable message they have heard — perhaps, "Payday Someday," by the late R.G. Lee, or "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," by the late Jonathan Edwards.

To me, the greatest sermon ever preached was not by R.G. Lee, Jonathan Edwards, or any other man. It came from an unnamed angel who said to the women at the tomb, "He is not here; for he is risen, as he said..." (Matt. 28:6). Because of this message, we all have a message to proclaim: He lives! He lives! He lives!

The death of Jesus (27:45-50). In Jesus' day the Jewish people observed a day as being 12 hours; from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. By using their clock, we know that Jesus died about 3 p.m., or the ninth hour (v. 46). Jewish time and Roman time were different (John 19:14), and because of this difference, some believe there is an error here in the Scriptures. There's not.

Matthew wrote to Jews so he uses the Jewish clock. John wrote to Jews and Gentiles, so he used the Roman clock. Matthew and John didn't get their facts wrong, they really verified one another.

It was at the ninth hour that Jesus said, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani" (v. 46), or "My God, my God, Why hast Thou forsaken me?" This is a quotation from Psalm 22, which contains over 30 prophecies that Jesus fulfilled during his six hours on the cross. Some skeptics say, "Jesus was looking back" (quoting David). Actually, David was looking ahead, quoting Jesus. Verse 48 records that Jesus was given vinegar to drink, which was a type of wine that lower class people drank. This act was probably done out of kindness. The drink offered him in Matthew 27:34 was used as a drug to deaden the pain, which Jesus refused.

Verse 50 says, "Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost" (died). I believe this was a voluntary act, since the tone of his voice indicated he was still as strong as the other two crucified on either side of him. His death kept the Roman soldiers from breaking his legs (John 19:33), which is a fulfillment of Psalm 34:20. It was his hour to die (John 12:23, 27; 13:1; 17:1): the hour which was set from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). He took the judgment of God so we wouldn't have to. What a wonderful Saviour and God we have.

The resurrection of Jesus (28:1-10). The "end of the Sabbath" meant Saturday (Jewish day of rest and worship) was over, and Sunday (the first day of the new week) had begun. It was a new day, a new week, and now a new age; the age of the law was over, with the age of grace now in effect (John 1:17). The veil was torn open (Matt 27:51), so that anyone could approach God through the sacrifice of Jesus.

Mary Magdalene, out of whom Jesus had cast seven evil spirits (Mark 16:9), Mary the mother of James, and Salome (Mark 16:1) had come to anoint the body with spices the final time (Luke 23:55-24:1). After three days Jewish people believed the spirit was gone and there was no hope the body would rise again. By the fourth day the body was severely decaying and stinking (John 11:39). Jesus gave up his spirit on the cross (Matt. 27:50) and rose the third day to fulfill Psalm 16:10, which said his body would not experience corruption (decay).

A great earthquake took place. An angel appeared and moved the stone from the tomb door. The Roman soldiers sent to guard the tomb passed out from fear of these supernatural events (Matt. 28:2-4). The angel verified Jesus was alive by saying, "He is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (v. 6). The angel told the women three things to tell the disciples (v. 7). They should be repeated by every one of us as believers today: 1) tell, he is risen from the dead; 2) he goeth before you; 3) you shall see him. The women went to anoint a corpse. Instead, they worshiped and beheld a live, resurrected Christ (v. 9).

How glorious the angel's message is: He lives! Matthew's account of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus teaches that God has made salvation available through Christ and calls all believers to share this good news.

Littlejohn is pastor of Ingram Church, Baldwin.

Life and Work Thank God for you!



By Linda Donnell
1 Thessalonians 1

How thankful are you? William Law, an 18th century writer, said, "The greatest saint is not the one who prays and fasts the most or who gives the most. The greatest saint is the person who is always thankful to God...." Some would tell us that to have a continuously thankful heart could revolutionize our lives. That is to say, if we could live each day with a grateful sense of God's goodness continually on our minds, many of our thoughts and actions might be quite different.

The apostle Paul might agree. It is apparent that he rated thanksgiving highly (1 Thess. 5:18, 2 Cor. 4:15, 2 Cor. 9:11). His letter to the church at Thessalonica, which was written to encourage them in their work, began with gratitude. Evidence of God working in the lives of believers is indeed reason for thanksgiving.

For what you do (vv. 1-3). Paul shares authorship with Silas and Timothy in writing this, his first epistle. In addressing the people, he recognized them as being devoted and dedicated to "God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 1). God was the very atmosphere in which the church lived and operated. How many of our churches today might be able to share this distinction? Can outsiders see evidence of our total dedication to God? How?

Paul's opening greeting, "Grace and peace to you," showed a sincere affection toward its readers. He intended to bring joy and kindness with the use of the term "grace;" while "peace" carried the meaning of wholeness in the midst of struggle. These Christians had remained faithful in spite of severe suffering.

"We always thank God for all of you..." (v. 2). What a good feeling this statement must have established in the Thessalonian church! It is indeed a blessing to hear someone lift up our name in thanksgiving to God. Part of the challenge and privilege of being a Christian is remembering one another in prayer. Do you keep a prayer calendar? If so, do you remember to be thankful for Christians who touch and influence your life? Do you share your prayer thoughts with those for whom you pray?

Paul's expressions of thanksgiving were threefold: 1) work which is inspired by faith, 2) labor prompted by love, and 3) endurance founded on hope (v. 3). The body of believers had a true and living faith which resulted in work. Their love for God showed. It was not hidden. Because of their well-grounded hope of eternal life, their lives showed patience. This was the first of many times in which Paul connected the words "faith," "hope," and "love" (1 Cor. 13:13, Gal. 5:5). These three key ingredients should be evident in the lives of all Christians. They are spiritual muscles that should be used, developed, and stretched. How are they manifest in you?

What you are (vv. 4-7). Paul was not only thankful for what the Thessalonian Christians were doing, he was grateful to know that they had been chosen and called by God (v. 4). He had no doubt that the Holy Spirit was in those who preached to this church and in those who welcomed the Word as well. The gospel presented was not just fancy words to which the people merely listened. Because it was filled with power, it affected their hearts and consequently showed forth in their lives (vv. 5-6). The very fact that the Thessalonians received the gospel with joy even though they were greatly persecuted gives evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit (v. 6).

The reception of the gospel was not the stopping point with the new believers — it was a new beginning. The effect of their response extended beyond their own lives into the lives of others. They became models to believers in two large provinces: Macedonia and Achaia (v. 7). How far does your Christian influence extend?

For what others say (vv. 8-10). The effects of the faith of the Thessalonian church became known abroad. They totally committed themselves to the living God, gave up their idols, and began looking toward the return of Christ. This is the picture of true conversion.

Christians today also have opportunity to impact the world in which they live. What evidence can you offer that God lives in you? Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for those believers you know who are Christian models for others to follow.

Donnell is a member of First Church, Hattiesburg.

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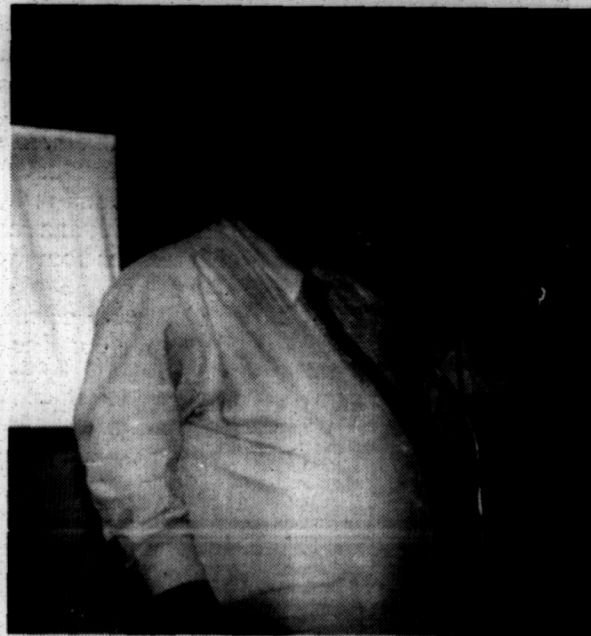
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(to be continued)



Men from FBC Flowood assisted Recreation Director, Jan Rowzee in painting Hester Activities Building. Many thanks!



The Baptist Children's Village recently had a very exciting area conference in Biloxi. Many thanks to FBC Biloxi for hosting the conference. Guest speakers included alumnus Billy Crowe and long-time volunteer Dale Clark.

capsules

REVIVAL IN MIDST OF HARDSHIP EVIDENT IN CUBA: WASHINGTON (BP) — Severe economic hardships have not quelled the joy of believers in Cuba and have increased the spiritual hunger of the people, Baptist World Alliance (BWA) President Nilson Fanini and General Secretary Denton Lotz reported after a March 8-15 visit to the country. Fanini and Lotz were joined by BWA regional secretaries Daniel Carro, Latin America, and Peter Pinder, the Caribbean. Preaching in Cuban Baptist churches, the four men witnessed more than 600 respond for the first time to accept Jesus Christ as Savior. "Cuba is experiencing a revival," Lotz said. "Every church the BWA team visited was filled to capacity and overflowing." Churches vary in size from 200 to 400 to 2,000, and the worship is spirited and intense, he said. Lotz said many pastors told him in spite of the growing hostilities and embargo imposed on Cuba by the United States, they are not afraid of what might happen. "We have nothing to lose now," one pastor said.

FAMILYNET TO TELECAST EASTER SERVICE FROM "SEA WORLD": FORT WORTH (BP) — The 20th annual Sea World Easter Sunrise Service in Orlando, Fla., scheduled to begin at 6 a.m. (EDT) April 7, will be telecast "live" by FamilyNet, the broadcast television service of the Radio and Television Commission (RTVC). Featured on the Easter program will be Bobby Bowden, Florida State University head football coach, who will give his testimony. Host of the event is Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ. The interdenominational service, free and open to the public, will be at the park's Atlantis Water Ski Stadium. It is a co-production of Sea World, Orlando churches, and WTGL-TV (Channel 52).

DISASTER RELIEF MINISTRY REVIEWS '95 WORK, LOOKS AHEAD: MEMPHIS (BP) — The national coordinator of Southern Baptists' disaster relief response says he will encourage even broader involvement by volunteers in the year ahead as he released a summary of the ministry's activity for 1995. Mickey Caison, associate director of the Adults in Missions Department of the Brotherhood Commission, said the scope of the ministry, now in its 27th year, can be expanded by encouraging more local churches and associations to get involved. At the close of 1995, some 10,454 Southern Baptists had received training in disaster relief and response. Also during 1995, disaster relief volunteers from 22 state conventions responded to 84 disasters; prepared 19,992 meals; cared for 1,050 people at day care units; repaired 726 homes and churches; and cleared 1,027 areas around homes of litter and debris. In addition, 3,442 new volunteers received disaster relief training and 14 new disaster relief units were added to the 142 mobile units already in operation.

CHARLES STANLEY'S WIFE DROPS DIVORCE SUIT: ATLANTA (BP) — Anna Stanley, wife of First Church of Atlanta senior pastor Charles Stanley, has dropped her nearly three-year-old divorce suit, according to her attorney, Adrienne Marting, who with David Ross represented Anna Stanley, confirmed March 15 the petition for divorce had been withdrawn from Cobb County Superior Court. A statement from In Touch Ministries, which oversees broadcasts of pastor Stanley's sermons, quoted his wife as saying, "I am pleased to announce that Charles and I are making progress toward reconciling our marriage differences. This past week I canceled my petition for divorce."

VIRGINIA APPROVES NEW DESIGNATED GIFTS POLICY: RICHMOND (ABP) — The General Association of Virginia will let churches channel contributions to tax-exempt Christian organizations not in the state association's budget, including a breakaway conservative group that complains the BGAV is too liberal. The Virginia Baptist executive committee approved the new policy unanimously March 12. The change was made after several Virginia Baptists asked the BGAV's treasurer's office to forward money to other organizations, including Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, a group dissatisfied with what they call the liberal direction of the BGAV. The previous policy allowed BGAV treasurer Nathaniel Kellum to forward funds only to organizations listed in the state budget. "This is an open policy that seeks to serve the churches," said Reginald McDonough, executive director for Virginia Baptists. "It is to facilitate their wishes and is in keeping with Virginia Baptist character of openness."

BWA SENDING MEDICAL SHIPMENT TO BOSNIA, CROATIA, SERBIA: WASHINGTON (BP) — Baptist World Aid, the relief and development arm of the Baptist World Alliance, will send \$1.75 million worth of urgently needed medical supplies and medicines to Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia. The shipment will be channeled through Croatian Baptist Aid to one of its cooperating groups, Duhovna Stvarnost, in Zagreb where half of the supplies will go immediately to a medical clinic in Bosnia. The rest of the BWAid medical shipment will be divided for use in Croatia for refugees and displaced people, and a direct shipment will go to Serbia, where Bread for Life, a Baptist humanitarian group in Belgrade, will help refugees there. Donations may be sent to Baptist World Aid, Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia Appeal, 6733 Curran Street, McLean, VA 22101-6005.

Touched by missionary's life — Holly lived life as a celebration

By Bobbye Rankin

RICHMOND (BP) — Each time I visit a new country, one of my prayers is that the Lord will not allow me to exit as I entered but will change me in a significant way. I desire to know our missionaries and the people with whom they work and to understand more specifically how to intercede for them.

After spending three wonderful weeks in Togo, West Africa, in September, I came home with a mild case of malaria. This malady is common among our missionaries in many mosquito-infested areas. The Lord answered my prayer in helping me to understand how to pray for them, and I certainly returned in a condition different than when I arrived!

I was totally unprepared for the phone call on Oct. 14 from Betty Kay Yamaoka, associate area director for West Africa, telling us about the death of Holly Larm. A missionary to the Ivory Coast, Holly, age 32, wife of Allie and mother of Amber, 9, and Luke, 7, had attended the last women's conference in Togo. I remember her, not only as a beautiful and vivacious young missionary, but as a woman whose heart was sensitive and responsive to the Lord.

Holly contracted malaria and began to experience heart palpitations after her first dosage of medication. Whether from the malaria or some other complications, the palpitations became more severe, and she experienced cardiac arrest during the night.

Holly's testimony prior to their appointment to the Ivory Coast reflects her personal commitment to an unequivocal call to foreign missions. "The idea of missions excites me more than scares me," she said. "I believe my children will enjoy the mission field as well. We are a close family and love our prayer time together. They will see what God is doing firsthand and see people come to know the Lord as their Savior.

They will also see how God can and will use them for the furtherance of his kingdom. The sacrifice is small compared to all that."

The comments of her colleagues in the Ivory Coast brought smiles and tears intermittently as Mary Dean Phillips, wife of the area director, shared them with our Thursday morning prayer group. "It's not Holly's death that we wish to report today, but rather her life ... and how she did live! Holly was known to all for her zest for life, her positive spirit, her ability to out-arm wrestle any man or woman around, and her ability to hit a baseball farther than you or I ever dreamed."

As I pause today to remember Holly's death and to celebrate her life, I will ever be grateful that her life touched mine. Many unanswered questions remain, and the parallels of our lives evoke deep reflection on my part. Holly and I met in West Africa and both had our first brush with malaria. Mine was a mild case with controllable palpitations; her case was more severe and life-threatening. At 32 years of age I, like Holly, was a missionary with two children — a daughter, age 9, and a son, age 7. I came home to America, but Holly went to sleep and woke up in her heavenly home on my birthday.

May we always be aware of the precious gift of life given to each of us and to our families and friends. May Holly's testimony encourage us to share the life of Christ and his love in the world in which we live. Let us celebrate life where God has placed each of us, recognizing, "In him was life; and the life was the light of men" (John 1:4).

This article is an excerpt of "From the Rankin File," a column by Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin in the board's monthly magazine *The Commission*. In his March 1996 column, Rankin quoted his wife's tribute to Holly Larm.

SBTS faculty journal undergoes facelift

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — *Review & Expositor* (R&E), the faculty journal of Southern Seminary for 93 years, has announced a reorganization of its editorial board to include representatives of several new moderate seminaries and theology schools.

A March 26 news release issued by the journal's current editorial board quoted Richard Cunningham, a Southern Seminary professor of Christian philosophy and editorial board member, as saying: "The *Review & Expositor* editorial board, which has been an independent, self-perpetuating organization for about five years, voted to reorganize in order to respond to its traditional constituency and to broaden its base."

The editorial board vote took place in late February and legal documents from five additional

participating institutions, such the Baptist Seminary at Richmond, Va., have since been received, said Joel Drinkard, a professor of Old Testament at Southern and the journal's business manager since January 1994.

Under the new arrangement, the current R&E board will turn over its assets to the new venture, the board's news release stated. Southern Seminary faculty will hold three seats on the 13-member board through 2001 and two seats thereafter.

Southern Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr., in a March 27 statement, said: "I am shocked and saddened by the announcement that the editorial board of *Review & Expositor* intends to remove the journal from Southern Seminary. This intention was announced without any consultation with the

administration. We are reviewing the situation in light of this recent development.

"*Review & Expositor* has been a part of Southern Seminary since 1904, and it has been identified as the faculty journal of this institution," Mohler said. "Furthermore, Southern Seminary has made a significant investment in *Review & Expositor* for over 90 years. Any further comment will follow a thorough review of the situation."

Paige Patterson, chairman of the Council of Seminary Presidents and president of Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., reacted: "... It appears to me to be an act of reprehensible disloyalty on the part of existing Southern Seminary faculty...."

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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F EFMZ, JF IL ABFQHBXY WFQCILXFQ FC CPWB,
JF FIM GXQHL, JF FIM DMXQWBL, PQZ JF FIM
CPJYBML, ABWPILB KB YPOB LXQQBZ PHPXQLJ
JYBB.

ZPQXBE QXQB: BXHYJ

This week's clue: P equals A.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Matthew Eight: Twelve.

Baptist Record

A

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